

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace original paragraphs 25 and 26 with the following amended paragraphs:

[0025] The heater coils 40 are enclosed within the space 70 and are preferably mounted in contact engagement with the outer surface 22 of the inner tube 20 so as to most efficiently transmit heat energy to the body of the heat conductive material of which tube 20 is comprised. Heater coils 40 are connected by conventional electrical wiring 102 to a source of heat generating energy 100 such as an electrical voltage or current generator which can be readily controlled to transmit electrical energy to coils 40 and raise the temperature of the coils 40 to one or more preselected temperatures. Other sources of heat generation may alternatively be employed such as a fluid material which is controllably heated at a source location 400 and routed through tubes 40. The heater mechanism may alternatively be constructed in other formats such as heatable sheets or strips akin to coils 40 which wrap around the outer surface 22 of the inner tube 20. Alternatively, the heater may comprise thick or thin film electrical resistance elements encased in enamel.

[0026] As shown in Figure 5, the inner surface 24 of inner tube 20 is fitted around the outer surface 82 of a nozzle body 80 that is mounted at an upstream end to sealably communicate with a fluid flow channel 110 of a heated fluid distribution manifold or hotrunner 120. The diameter A of inner tube 20 is typically configured to be essentially the same as or only very slightly larger at room temperature than the outer surface diameter of the nozzle body 80 such that nozzle body 80 is snugly received within the hollow interior of heater tube 20. The manifold 120 of the injection molding apparatus 125 is heated to an elevated temperature to maintain the fluid injected into the channel 110 in a readily fluid flow state. The heater assembly in the arrangement shown in Figure 5 is positioned at a downstream position around the nozzle body 80 to continue to maintain the fluid at a selected elevated temperature as the fluid travels from channel 420 110 through the channel or bore 130 of nozzle 80. The heater coils 40 heat inner tube 20 which in turn heats nozzle body 80 which in turn heats fluid within channel 130.